

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Allen Boyd (D-North Florida) today moved one step closer to protecting jobs at Tyndall Air Force Base with the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act, which includes a provision that would delay the proposed retirement of the F-15s assigned to the base until after the Air Force has provided Congress with detailed reports on the long-term effects of the drawdown.

“Tyndall Air Force Base plays an integral role not only in our national defense, but also in our local economy,” said Congressman Boyd. “With its access to the gulf training range and the overwhelming support that the Bay County community extends to its local service members, Tyndall provides a premier training location for our nation’s future fighter pilots. I am committed to bolstering its capability in every way possible.”

At Congressman Boyd’s invitation, the Secretary of the Air Force, Michael Donley, and the Air Force Chief of Staff, General Norton A. Schwartz, visited Tyndall Air Force Base in June to see firsthand the tremendous support the base receives from the Bay County community, as well as the vital role Tyndall plays in our national security efforts.

“The Air Force owes it to the Bay County community and others like it across the country to fully articulate the reasons for retiring F-15s earlier than expected, and that’s what the language in the Defense Authorization bill would require,” Boyd stated. “This bill represents a tremendous legislative victory for our base, and I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress to ensure that our national defense efforts remain strong and that the interests of military personnel in North Florida are protected.”

The National Defense Authorization Act passed the House of Representatives today by a vote of 281 to 146. After action by the Senate, it will be sent to the White House for the President’s signature.

###